

# 2020 IDWR Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and Tributaries Letter Permit Supplement Instructions

## Introduction

Power sluicing and dredge mining on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and tributaries requires completion of the *IDWR Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and tributaries Letter Permit Supplement Form* (“Letter Permit Supplement”) attached hereto. The Letter Permit Supplement allows operators to obtain a permit to operate a power sluice and/or a small suction dredge (nozzle five inches in diameter or less and equipment rated at a maximum of 15 horsepower) on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and tributaries.

The Mores Creek Sub-basin does not currently meet state water quality standards and is subject to a pollutant budget, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). To meet state water quality standards, IDWR must document the number of days of mining on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek and tributaries. The TMDL limits are converted here to allowable hours:

- Grimes Creek: 84 four-hour dredge days (336 hours total) - Applicable to the main stem of Grimes Creek and all tributaries.
- Elk Creek: 11 four-hour dredge days (44 hours total) - Applicable to the main stem of Elk Creek and the tributaries above Eldorado Gulch.
- Mores Creek: 60 four-hour dredge days (240 hours) - Applicable to the main stem of Mores Creek and tributaries (except Grimes and Elk creeks) below Boulder Creek.

## Application Requirements

Applicants that fulfill the following IDWR requirements may be authorized to operate mining equipment in Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, Elk Creek, and all open tributaries:

- submit a **complete** IDWR Recreational Mining Authorization (Letter Permit; found at [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov) or any IDWR office) including fee, signature, and all required information;
- submit a **complete** Letter Permit Supplement (attached), with all required information, including signature, and a map of each location.

***Incomplete Letter Permit Supplements will not be accepted.***

Permittees that dredge mine on Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, and all open tributaries may incur legal consequences as outlined in Idaho Code §§ 42-3809 and 42-1701B for any violation of the conditions of an approved permit.

## Other Required Permits

The US Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) requires an NPDES general permit for small scale suction dredging in Idaho. **Anyone operating a small suction dredge on any stream or river in Idaho should contact the EPA to obtain an NPDES general permit. See contact info below.** Note: For activity on Mores, Elk, and/or Grimes Creek, the EPA must receive the required NPDES application by April 1 of each year for the EPA to permit mining activity in these areas. Additional information regarding NPDES permitting may be obtained via the EPA’s Idaho website: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/npdes-general-permit-small-suction-dredge-placer-miners-idaho>.

On July 1, 2020, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will become the state NPDES permitting authority for small-scale suction dredging in Idaho under the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) program. After July 1, 2020 contact DEQ instead of EPA regarding the need to obtain or comply with a previously issued valid EPA NPDES permit for suction dredging.

The US Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) may require operators to submit a Notice of Intent.

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## **Contacts**

**Boise National Forest**  
1249 S Vinnell Way #200  
Boise, ID 83709  
208-373-4100

**EPA Idaho Operations Office**  
950 W Bannock, Suite 900  
Boise, ID 83702  
208-378-5746

**Bureau of Land Management**  
Boise District Office  
3948 Development Ave  
Boise, ID 83705  
208-384-3300

**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**  
State Office  
1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, ID 03706  
208-373-0136  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)

**Idaho Department of Water Resources**  
322 E Front St  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0098  
208-287-4800  
[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

# IDWR Mores Creek, Grimes Creek, and Tributaries Letter Permit Supplement Form

An IDWR Recreational Mining Authorization (**LETTER PERMIT**) must accompany this Supplement, including the appropriate **LETTER PERMIT** application fee (\$10 for Idaho residents, \$30 for non-Idaho residents).

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED				
<b>I. APPLICANT INFORMATION (bold = required)</b>				
<b>1. Name (Last, First MI)</b>				<b>2. Idaho Resident?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>3. Mailing Address (Street or PO Box)</b>		<b>4. City</b>	<b>5. State</b>	<b>6. Zip</b>
<b>7. Phone No. (include area code)</b>		<b>8. Email Address</b>		
<b>II. LOCATION AND ACTIVITY INFORMATION (bold = required)</b>				
<b>9. Estimated number of proposed dredging days</b>		<b>10. Estimated number of proposed dredging hours per day</b>		<b>11. Estimated volume of material dredged per day (in cubic yards)</b>
<b>12. Claim Name/Number (if applicable)</b>	<b>12a. Twnshp</b>	<b>12b. Range</b>	<b>12c. Section</b>	<b>OR 12d. Latitude/Longitude</b>
<b>13. Site Access/Directions.</b> Attach a vicinity map—such as a USGS quadrangle or National Forest map—showing the mining location(s) (and claim boundaries, if applicable).				
<b>14. Summary Description of Activity,</b> including equipment to be used (high banker, suction dredge, etc.).				
<b>14a. Dredge Details.</b> Size of dredge nozzle _____ in Horsepower rating _____ HP		<b>14b. Estimated Total Area and Volume of Material(s) to be dredged and discharged below the ordinary high water mark:</b> _____ square feet    _____ cubic yards		

FORM CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**III. APPLICANT SIGNATURE (bold = required)**

16. I have read and understand the Stream Channel Alteration by Recreational Mining Activities IDWR Instructions for 2020 and will conduct my operations in compliance with those Instructions, all rules, special conditions, and other requirements. In addition, I will not conduct any in-stream mining activity until submitting a Letter Permit, including the Supplement Application, and application fee to IDWR and maintain copies of these documents while conducting mining operations. Furthermore, I agree to be liable for any violation of the conditions of approval of a permit issued as a result of this application by others operating the permitted dredge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed and signed application, along with an IDWR Recreational Mining Authorization (LETTER PERMIT) and application fee, to:

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Attn: Stream Channel Protection Section  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0098